

Written Testimony of Thomas P. and Tina M. Wilson
RE: In Support of House Bill HB0359 - Education – Interscholastic and Intramural
Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports – Designation Based on Sex
(Save Women’s Sports Act)
February 13, 2023

As citizens of the state of Maryland, we enthusiastically support Maryland **House Bill HB0359**. This testimony seeks to express our rationale for support of **HB0359**.

In Maryland today, biological females are being required to compete against biological males identifying as females in high school and college interscholastic and intramural junior varsity athletic teams or sports sponsored by public schools. This is not a level playing field. Biological males have greater lung capacity, longer and stronger bones and other physical strength advantages over biological females.

We are all probably familiar with the Lia Thomas story. Lia Thomas attended the University of Pennsylvania as a male student and competed 3 years on the men's swim team without distinction. Following her gender transition, where she then identified as a female, she competed and won all the awards on the women's swim team.

Girls and women's opportunities for scholarships and competitive sports in colleges or professionally are at stake. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires equal opportunity for girls and women in education, athletic teams and scholarships. Changing the interpretation to include males who “identify as female” wipes out the equal opportunity protection for girls and women.

There are also safety concerns for biological women and girls who are being forced to accommodate biological males in their bathrooms and locker rooms. Boys who want to become girls are increasingly allowed to use girls’ bathrooms and locker rooms, jeopardizing the safety of girls. Girls have been attacked in girls’ bathrooms in schools by biological males whether they identify as female or not. For example: 2021 case in Loudoun County, VA.

HB0359 provides strong documentation in support of the need to protect girls' and women's sports for girls and women, and provides a common sense approach to inclusion of all persons. HB 359 provides that for three types of teams:

- a boys, male, or men's team or sport
- a girls, female, or women's team or sport
- a coeducational or mixed team or sport

No one is excluded but separate categories allow for fair and equal opportunity to compete. We strongly support this legislation and believe it absolutely necessary to protect women’s athletics in our public school system in Maryland.